Project Mangalam

Justice Delivery by Women For Women



National Commission For Women

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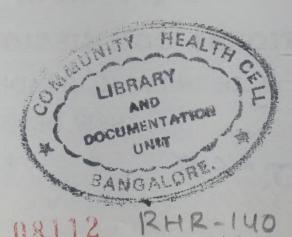
Mangalam

A Pilot Project Pondicherry

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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FOREWORD

Women's rights to equal justice still an enigma in our country. Realising the fact that the remote women in the villages remain deprived of access to justice and knowing the fact that hundreds and thousands of villages do not even have a police post as guardian of law and justice, the National Commission for Women deliberated at length on the type of strategies to be developed to reach out to the most deprived sections in the villages namely, women and children.

On the other hand, it is evident from the social reality that village women do not, individually or collectively represent a common need syndrome, mainly because they are not socially mobilised to approach one another's need or to fight for a common cause. Placed in this situation, women belonging to different households almost live in isolated pockets where they keep their problems to themselves without sharing with others. Only in cases of open atrocities against women on the streets, many villagers come to know of the same. No one wants to interfere with the impregnable walls and privacy of a household and their problems are treated as of individual family problems and that should not be interfered with. In these circumstances, women not only are battered but totally deprived of any support either from within or without. Even access to justice outside her home is nil or negligible. Recognising this situation prevailing in the villages, the Naitonal Commission for Women thought it fit to find out some innovative method by which women can be brought together with the sole purpose of making them understand their own rights, potential and responsibilities.

Thus in the first meeting of the Expert Committee on Justice Delivery System, an innovative approach was conceived for justice delivery "by women for women". Former Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Venkataramaiah christened the project as 'Mangalam' This is intended to cater to the women of the Mangalam village in Pondicherry district. In order to turn this novel idea into a reality, the

National Commission for Women offered to initiate a pilot project called 'Mangalam Project' for whice a Co-ordination Committee was appointed with Smt. Anjani Dayanand, IAS(Retd.) as its Chairperson The National Law School University, Bangalore through its Director, Prof. Madhava Menon, offere both conceptual and resource inputs from the initial stages and obtained for us the services of LRSA Chingleput, for all Legal Resource and expertises

The Mangalam Project's evolution, growth and functioning are contained in the form of report of the functions and activities of the Committee from time to time.

National Commission for Women is beholder to the Chief Minister of Pondicherry, the Education & Social Welfare, Chief Secretary, Secretary Welfare the Collector, Director Welfare, Chairperson of the State Social Welfare Board and other NGOs who offered assistance with commitment and concern

Smt. Anjani Dayanad, IAS (Retd), Chairperson, with the Director, Social Welfare, and with her members could not only organise and guide the project but steered through admirably to the immense satisfaction and happiness of the villagers, Government and non-Governmental agencies.

This is a pretested project model on social mobilisation and justice delivery by women for women that can easily be replicated by other States in India.

The Panchayat Raj women hold the key to this need and they will be successul in establishing social justice in the villages for women by women in the near future.

This project could not have been a success but for the total commitment and interest shown by Smt. Jayanti Patnaik, my predecessor, and Padma Seth, Member, who initiated this project in Pondicherry and also offered continuous guidance to steer through this project with success.

(MOHINI GIRI)

Chairperson

DEPOSITOR OF THE PARTY OF THE P

Experimental Project on delivery of gender Justice to Rural Women - PROJECT : JUSTICE (Justice under System of Trust, Involvement and Equity)

Access to justice is the key for equality, equity and dignity. It is more so for women and other disadvantaged sections of society for whom law is the real strength. Unfortunately, despite the promises of the Constitution and the laws of the country, women continue to suffer denial of justice, delay in justice and distortions in the delivery of justice. The Law Commission of India in its 114th Report (August 1986) have recommended grassroot level participatory forum of justice at the Panchayats. This is yet to be implemented, meanwhile the 72nd and 73rd amendments to the Constitution of India have invoked the revolutionary step to decentralise governance through Panchayati Raj institutions. There is a great opportunity in this context to make a people-oriented break-through in the delivery of justice in the villages through participatory mechanism of justice which the Law Commission had recommended six years ago.

- 2. The National Commission has been deliberating for quite some time the strategies desirable and practicable to enable women in the rural countryside to resolve their small disputes fairly and quickly at the village level and in the process, avoid denial of justice. There is no ready made model available. The Law Commission's model would require amendments of the law which may take a long time. Meanwhile the model of 'Lok Adalats', now a popular instrument for accident compensation cases, is available for adaption to rural disputes. The system of mediation and conciliation also provides techniques appropriate in this regard. The Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 therefore envisages such peoples' tribunals. But this Act has not yet been brought into force. It is in this context, the Committee on Delivery of Justice of the National Commission for Women suggested an experimental project involving women themselves in a participatory arrangement in the delivery of justice to women in a given area. Of course, this requires full support and understanding of the executive government in as much as their officers (revenue, police, social welfare and municipal administration) have to extend assistance within their powers to the resolution of problems of women in their jurisdictions. The Commission felt the Union Territory of Pondicherry would be ideal for the project and hence Mangalam Project has been planned.
- 3. The Project has the following objectives:
 - (i) Women in the area to be educated of the minimum laws;
 - (ii) Women must be equipped to participate in the democratic; political process of panchayat administration invoking power with accountability;
 - (iii) One or more representative groups of women should come forward to constitute themselves into Mahila Courts where women can voluntarily bring their grievances and disputes and can find solutions amicably through conciliation, mediation, negotiation and arbitration; and
 - (iv) Aim at avoiding costly litigation and in providing cheap, fair, quick justice at the doorsteps.
- 4. The project will have an Advisory Committee:
 - (a) Justice E.S. Venkataramiah, Former Chief Justice of India
 - (b) Mrs. Padma Seth, Member, NCW
 - (c) Chief/Law Secretary, Govt. of Pondicherry
 - (d) Dr. Justice David Annaswamy, Pondicherry
 - (e) Mr. A.C. Menon, Former Law Secretary, Government of Pondicherry
 - (f) Dr. N.R. Madhava Menon, Director, National Law School of India
 - (g) Mr. D.K. Sampath, Visiting Professor, NLSIU

- 5. The Project will have an executive and monitoring committee:
 - (a) Dr. N.R. Madhave Menon
 - (b) Mrs. Padma Seth
 - (c) A nominee of the Pondicherry Administration.
- 6. The Project will be of one year's duration-January 1994 to January, 1995.
- 7. The expenses of the project will be met by NCW and local costs including office, local transport and incidental matters will be met by the Union Territory Administration. The budget for the Union Territory Administration in this regard is estimated to be less than Rupees two lakes for the entire project.
- 8. The location of the area, the mechanics of the project and the personnel to be involved will be decided in a joint meeting of the Advisory Committee to be held in Pondicherry in the first week of January, 1994.
- 9. Besides helping women to have better access to justice during the one year period, the project will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing situation, evolve an appropriate model for a Mahila Court which can profitably be adapted to the Panchayat Raj system and prepare the scheme for training personnel for the purposes.
- 10. The project will prepare six-monthly reports on the progress and will make it available to the Union Territory Administration for information and comments. The final product of this experimental project will also be provided with suggestions for implementation at the national level.

(Padma Seth) Member

Project on Delivery of Justice to Women through Participatory Arrangements at the local level

A Committee constituted by the National Commission for Women to look into the question of delivery of justice to women recommended that a pilot project should be launched to see whether participatory institutions at the local level could provide access, reliefs and empowerment to women particularly in rural areas. It was suggested that such a mechanism will be opportune at the moment when the country is embarking on decentralised administration through panchayat raj institutions involving more than one-third women represented in them. After a great deal of deliberations, it was proposed that the project may be kept experimental for one year at one or two places and closely monitored to assess its viability, usefulness and acceptability among rural women and with existing village structures.

The enthusiastic response of the Pondicherry Government and particularly the support offered by the Chief Minister pursuaded the N C W to locate the project in Pondicherry. At a preliminary meeting in Bangalore with Pondicherry officials various options were examined and selection of a suitable location was delegated to the officials. The officials surveyed several possible locations and came up finally with two villages near Pondicherry.

The N C W with its Committee members and advisers again met on 1 - 2 February 1994 at Pondicherry, visited the two locations, discussed with officials and NGOs at different and finally agreed to set up the project in a village called NANGALAMPET, about 12 KMS. from Pondicherry. In a grand village function on 2nd February at Mangalampet attended by the Ministers of Health and Education, the Collector and a former Chief Justice of India, Project Mangalam was formally announced and the co-operation of the villagers solicited. Later in consultation with the Director of Social Welfare, Collector, the Law Secretary and others, the following decisions were made:

- 1. Project Mangalam will start from February 1994 for a 10-month period ending in December 1994.
- 2. The Advisory Committee as constituted before will continue for general consultation and advice.

- 3. A Local Co-ordination Committee is to be constituted with Mrs. Anjani Dayanand, IAS former Chief Secretary of Pondicherry as its Chairperson and chief Co-ordinator. The committee would include the Collector, the Chairperson of Social Welfare Board, the Director, Social Welfare, Mr. A.C. Menon and Mr. Krishnadattin.
- 4. A training, research and monitoring committee with Mr. D., K. Sampath, Mrs. Velu and Mrs. Vani will work with the Local Co-ordination Committee.
- 5. The Collector and Director of Social Welfare will arrange to depute a competent worker as the Organizer/Supervisor of the project who will be under the administrative control of the Co-ordinatation Committee.
- 6. The Co-ordination Committee will select two field workers preferably of the village from among the Anganwadi workers to work full-time on the project.
- 7. The Director, Social Welfare, will provide office space, furniture, secretarial support and local transport for the project.
- 8. The budget not exceeding Rs. 1.5 lakhs will be given by the N C W. Advances from it will be made available to the Co-ordination Committee who will put it in a nationalised bank under the project account. The accounts will be operated jointly by Mrs. Anjani Dayanand and another member of the committee.
- 9. The selected field workers and the organizer will be given an orientation training by the National Law School under the supervision of Mr. D.K. Sampath in early March wich will be followed by village level training courses done in association with selected teachers of Govt. Law College.
- 10. The Co-ordination Committee will keep the NCW fully informed of the operations through periodic reports and the monitoring committee will independently document the strenghts and weaknesses of the programme.

Programme Objects:

Among other things, the programme has the following objectives:

- (i) Create awareness of rights, duties and entitlements on all women of the village;
- (ii) Mobilise women of the area to take civic responsibilities seriously and to stand forth for participation in local self-government;
- (iii) Provide legal advice, counselling and para-legal services to enable them to prevent exploitation or injustice and to seek entitlements from local structures and offices:
- (iv) Enable women to co-operate and invigilate the administrative system as village ombudsman and to make social audit of welfare and development administration in the area;
- (v) Empower women to resolve disputes among themselves or with their kith and kin or with neighbours or with local administration through informal methods

- such as mediation, conciliation and public advocacy;
- (vi) Empower women to seek legal aid and assistance for equal justice under law;
- (vii) Create respect in them for rule of law and human rights and generate forces of good governance at the grass roots level.

Programmes:

The actual programmes to advance the above objects, their organization and implementation, are matters left to the local co-ordination committee to work out in consultation with the people themselves and in response to the felt needs of the village. However, a legal literacy scheme, a legal mobilisation programme, a centre for delivery of legal advice and para-legal services, a conciliation-cum-mediation centre, a research and monitoring cell, a publicity and public relations unit are all expected as part of the programme package.

Dr. N.R. Madhava Menon

REPORT OF THE

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND LEGAL TRAINING CAMP

ACCESS TO JUSTICE TO RURAL WOMEN, PROJECT MANGALAM

INTRODUCTION

The Mandate:

The Co-ordination Committee for "Mangalam Project" decided to have taining camps for the Women of Mangalam village as part of implementation of the project. Legal Reseources for Social Action (LRSA) a Non-governmental legal services organisation beased in Chengalpattu was asked to evolve a training programme from 1st to 3rd May, 1994 at Mangalam Village. The content and methods of the training were evolved by LRSA and were approved by the Chairperson of the committee.

Objectives:

The objectives of the training camp were:

- a) developing the leadership qualities of the participant women and thereby enabling women of Mangalam to effectively participate in the implementation of the "Mangalam Project".
- b) enabling the participants to become aware of their status and role in the family, village and the society as women.
- c) helping the participants to understand the problems in general of the village and problems specific to them as women in the village.
- d) imparting knowledge on legal rights related to women and the skills required to exercise and enjoy those rights.
- e) creating awareness on the existing government welfare schemes and motivating women to participate in the schemes.

Content:

The content of the training programme is as follows:

- Creating the context
- Goal setting for the training
- Communication for empowerment
- Leadership development
- Micro analysis of the village
- Status of Rural Women
- Issues concerning women of Mangalam

- Role of Women in society/Gender equality
- Rights of women in Family Laws
- Offenses against women
- Legal strategies/legal aid and advice
- Alternate dispute resolution/counseling /mediation
- Government's welfare programmes
- Plan of action for future

Methodology:

The training programme was based on the PARTICIPAROTY METHODOLOGY where the knowledge and experience of the participants is respected and the learning takes place in a self supportive and non threatening atmosphere.

Participants:

All the participants were women. The participant were drawn from all the sections of the village including the schedule Castes. Though the age group ranged from 18 to 65, majority of the women were under the age group of 30 to 40. Excepting two or three unmarried women all others were married. The group also had a few widows and deserted women. They mostly belong to lower middle class families. Considerable number of them were landless poor and daily wage earners. There were two self employed women and two handicapped women.

Preparatory process:

The field staff and the organisor of the "Mangalam Project" wre fully involved in planning the training camp. In fact they went through an orientation camp for 3 days organised by LRSA earlier. They motivated the women to attend the camp and also made the selection of the participants giving representation to all sections of the village.

Logistics:

The women were provided no cash incentives to attend the camp. They were also not compensated for the loss of earnings for the three days. They were given lunch and refreshments only. The programme was conducted in one of the class rooms of the local high school.

01-05-1994 Sunday

Inaugural Function:

Dr. Sundaravadivelu, Director, Social Welfare Board, welcomed the gathering and the officials present. Mr. Narayanan, Secretary, Social Welfare Board, and the Pondicherry Collector spoke on the importance of the training. Mrs. Renuka Appadurai, Chairperson, State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Pondicherry Collector spoke on the importance of the training. Mrs. Renuka Appadurai, Chairperson, State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Pondicherry, spoke to the participants. Finally, Ms. J. Anjani Dayanand, Chairperson, Mangalam Project stressed the importance of the training and the role of the participants in the training camp. The inaugural function concluded with the vote of thanks by Ms. Vanmathi, the organisor of the project.

MODULE 1

INTRODUCTION

Session I

Ice Breaking Exercise:



Objective:

To enable the participants to get acquainted with the training environment and to establish rapport with the trainers, a game with lot of fun was introduced. It was aimed to build the group for a meaningful learning experience.

The Exercise:

All the participants were made to sit in a circle. The facilitator explained the game to them. Specific actions for drinking coffee, making dossa and vada were explained. The participants agreed to do the respective actions when those specific words were

mentioned. When the facilitator said "coffee" each participant acted as if she was drinking coffee. Similarly for dossa and vada they did the specific actions with their hands. These three words were uttered interchangingly in quick succession and any one who did a different action for the words was sent into the inner circle and was not allowed to participate further. The game continued till the last person who could do correctly emerged as the winner.

Outcome :

The exercise generated lot of laughter among the participants thereby taking away their anxieties. There was lot of fun and the women thoroughly enjoyed the game.

The prevailing silence in the training hall was broken. The participants became relaxed. When they were asked to share about the game, the women said that they were able to understand from the game that one needs to focus her attention sharply to succeed in any activity.

Session II

Input on Participatory Process:



Objective:

To ensure maximum participation of the participants.

Activity:

The participants were explained about the training methodology in order to make them understand the whole training process. The example of a football game and Kabadi was given. The participants were asked to say who all used to be present when a football or Kabadi match takes place in a grand scale. They said that there will be players, viewers, umpire, news reporters, commentators and coaches for both sides. Then the participants were asked to examine the role of each of these categories of people. When this was done they were told about their role. They were made to realise that they stand in the position of players and the training facilitators occupy the position of the coaches. The participants were told that for the team (all The participants of the training) to succeed (to get maximum benefit out of the training camp) each of the participants need to actively take part in the training. Playing here meant speaking and asking clarifications and questions. They were also told that they should not become viewers or news persons whose role is only to observe or comment. All the participants agreed to play well so that the whole group succeeds.

Outcome:

Each of the participants saw her role in the training camp and became articulate.

Session III

Self Introduction:

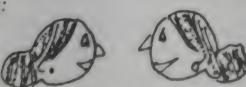
Each paticipant was asked to introduce herself by saying her name and what she does for living. This gave an opportunity for the women to stand up and speak. It helped the training facilitators to understand the profile of the participants.

MODULE II

SELF AND GROUP PROCESS

Session I

One to one sharing:

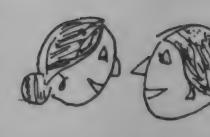


Objective:

Releasing the anxiety and stress the participants had in coming to the training camp and to deal with the problems upper most in their mind.

Activity:

The participants were asked to pair up and talk to the other person about their anxieties, concerns and problems in coming to the training camp.



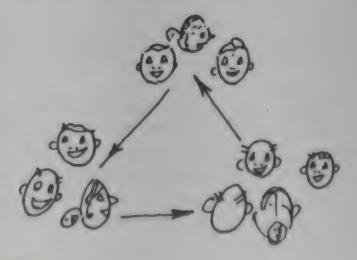
The other person actively listened to what wa spoken to her. Each person had five minutes t share with the other person. At the end of sharin the participants were asked to share to the entir group about the experience they have gone through Almost all the participants had problems in comin to the training camp either due to loss of earnings because of the fact that they had no one at hom to take care of the household work or children because of the objections from the husband or in laws. Sharing of the problems faced in coming to the training and their problems which are uppe most in their mind made them feel light and happy They also expressed that by sharing their problems with another person they got lot of relief from thei worries.

Outcome:

The participants got relieved of the stress and anxieties. They were able to focus their attention in what was happening in the session since their mental preoccupations were put aside through the process of one to one counselling. It also helped the participants to get motivated since they saw many women had made a choice to come to the training in spite of so many odds. It helped them to offer to others the emotional support. This has helped to build up the group. It removed the sense of loneliness since each of them realised that every one had problems and their earlier understanding that they alone had problems, was cleared.

Session II

Creative communication:



Objective:

To make the participants to realise the hitherto their communication had been based on reaction to things and that they were not in control of their life and relationships. To show a way to alter their communication from reaction based to one of creation, for making their life better.

Activity:

The participants were given chalk pieces and asked to put nine dots. They were asked to join the dots with only four straight lines without lifting the hand. All the participants seriously tried to join the dots. But only one or two succeeded. Then they were asked to share why only few can join the dots and others could not join. It was understood by the participants if they think within the frame work of their past knowledge and the boundaries they will not be able to achieve that result. If they exceed the limits by applying creative thinking they were able to join the nine dots which looked impossible to join.

The participants were told how they form opinions and had patterns about people based on their past experiences. People always react or related on the basis when they relate. Every individual goes through change every day. But even when that person relates in a totally different way as a different person, we tend to react to that person based only on our past experience. Hence, there is need to examine the basis of our communication and need to look at the person in that new circumstance in a creative way and establish a new relationship. The participants through various examples were shown the way to change their reaction based communication to creation based communication.

One example is on their accomplishing the tasks. The difference between "Trying" and "Doing" was demonstrated. One volunteer was called from the group and was given a paper. She was asked to not to tear the paper but "to try to tear it". The person was going on trying for ten minutes. She could not do anything with the paper. Then she was asked to "tear the paper". She at once tore the paper. The participants were able to see the difference between "trying to do things" and "doing things".

Another demonstration was given on "listening". Two volunteers were called in front and asked to talk non-stop to each other simultaneously. Each of them was not listening to the other and hence there was no communication. The need to listen to the other person when they communicate was clearly established.

Outcome:

This process helped the participants to approach

the training in a creative way and not to react to it from their own past recordings in their brain. It also helped them to look at their relationships with their husbands, in laws, children and the neighbours from a totally different context. Techniques of good communication were also acquired by the participants.

Session III

Cooperation game:



Objective:

To build the group to function in cooperation and not in competition.

The game:

The participants were divided into groups of five persons each. Each person was given a set of cards. Each person was asked to make a perfect square with the cards given to them. The cards were so distributed that unless they seek the cooperation of the other members of the group no one will be able to form the squares. The groups which had good cooperation among its members were able to complete the squares quickly. Some groups were not able to form the squares at all. At the end there was a reflection among the participants. Each one expressed that only when there was cooperation of all concerned in the group they could succeed.

Outcome:

The participants were able to see the value of cooperation and agreed to cooperate not only in this training camp but also in the implementation of the project.

Session IV

Expectations of the participants:

Objective;

To assess the needs and expectations of the participants regarding the training camp.

Activity:

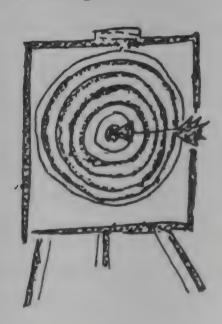
For any learning activity to be effective, the expectations of the learner need to be assessed before the inputs are given. Hence each of the participants were asked to state what was their expectation when they came for the training camp. Some came because they were asked to come for the programme. But by and large the participants stated that they wanted to get new ideas regarding women's rights and women's development. Some stated that they wanted to better their lives. Others said that they wanted to know about savings. Since this type of organised activity is new quite a few of them did not have any expectations.

Outcome:

It helped the facilitators to understand the participants as to where they stand in terms of their approach to the training and their level of understanding about the training camp.

Session V

Context/goal settings:



Objective:

For any training activity to succeed it is important to create the context or enable the participants to set the goals. In this session it was aimed to set the context and create goals for each of the participants.

Process:

The participants were told that this training programme was directly related to their own see as women, their family, their village and the society at large. The connections between their self, their family, their village and the society were shown. The participants were told that this camp aime at bettering their lives in all these levels. The were also assured that this learning activity will be an enjoyable experience.

Outcome:

The participants realised the need and relevance of this training to them.

Session VI

Sharing in pairs about their happiness and joy with the person whom they know least:

Objective:

To enable the participants to get acquainted with the persons whom they did not know well and to enable the participants to realise that there were many happy moments in their lives which are worth recollecting and sharing with others.

Process:

Each participant was asked to choose one person from among the participants whom they do not know well. They were paired and asked to share with the other person any event or occasion when they felt very happy in their life. After this sharing was over they were asked to tell the entire group what they felt during the sharing. Every one said that they not only felt happy when they recollected the happy moments but also made the other person happy by their sharing.

Outcome:

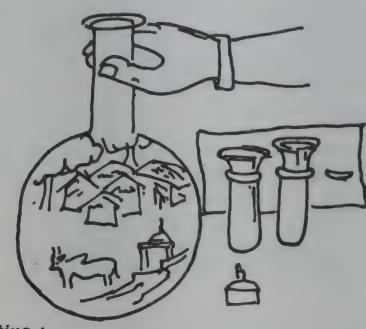
The participants not only got familiarised with the other person with whom they did not establish close contact before, but also freely shared their happiness with the other person. This brought the group closer. They felt that they so far considered that it was not so important to establish contact with other women in the village and saw the need to get closer to all the women in the village. The morale of the group was raised to great height by this sharing. This prepared them to go into serious work that followed.

MODULE III

THE VILLAGE

Session I

Village micro analysis:



Objective:

To enable the participants to become aware of the positive things in their village and also identify the things which need to be changed or areas where improvement is needed. This is done in the context of the Mangalam Project so that certain areas for follow up action could be identified.

Activity:

The participants were made to go into groups of three. Each group had at least one literate person who wil be able to put in writing in a chart paper what she and the other two members say as "three good things they like in their village" and "three things which they do no like or which they want to change or what they want to bring into their village". The groups very seriously thought about these aspects and put their ideas in paper. After this process of reducing their thoughts in the chart paper was over they were asked to share it with the entire group.

The following positive aspects were mentioned about Mangalam village:

- 1. The availability of high school.
- 2. The availability of a Police station.
- 3. Mariamman Temple
- 4. Electricity Office.
- 5. Vanavil Fair Price Shop.
- 6. Milk Society.
- 7. Cinema Theatre.

- 8. Chance to attend this type of camp.
 - 9. Drinking water facility.
- 10. Greenery all around.
- 11. Plenty of coconut trees around.
- 12. Transportation facility.
- 13. Availability of Anganvadi.
- 14. Annual festival that takes place in the village.
- 15. Availability of agricultural cooly work.
- 16. Magizhambu Mather Sangam.
- 17. Muthamiz Ilaingnar Manram (Youth Association)
- 18. Not much antagonism between the rich and the poor.
- 19. Poor widows are able to get help.
- 20. Availability of Television.
- 21. No antagonism between castes.
- 22. Participation of many in each other's family functions.

The participants also listed the things they do not like about the village or what they want to change or what they want to bring into the village.

- 1. Need for an Hospital (10 persons)
- Closing down of liquor shops and toddy shops
 (9 persons)
- 3. Need for an Hand Pump (8 persons)
- 4. Need for proper drainage facility (8 persons)
- 5. House site pattas
- 6. Lack of facility of garbage disposal in the streets
- 7. Lack of public toilets.
- 8. No bus stand for the village.
- 9. In Villianoor road from Lake bund street to Aiyanar temple there are no street lights.
- 10. Lack of proper buildings for the school.
- 11. Need for starting Plus two course in the school.
- 12. Need for a library.
- 13. Birth and death registrar is not coming to the village.
- 14. The fish market should be removed from the bus stand:

- 15. Quarrelling in the street.
- 16. Converting the family disputes into political party disputes.
- 17. Lack of total cooperation in conducting the village festival.
- 18. Prices of vegetables and provisions are high.
- 19. Prevalence of dowry system.
- 20. Lack of importance for women.
- 21. Eve teasing.
- 22. The food given in the school is not clean.
- 23. Building for Anganvadi.
- 24. The wages are low.
- 25. Lack of proper housing.
- 26. Building for Magizhamboo Mather Sangam.
- 27. Lack of unity among women.
- 28. Lack of employment for the educated youth.

Outcome:

This process was participatory and helped to understand the village from the perspective of the participant women. It showed that the women were concerned about the village and in improving the quality of their life and the life of the villagers. It helped the women to articulate the problems of the village. This is seen as the first step for the women to effectively participate in development process concerning the village.

Session II

Motivation for women to come for the next day:

The participants were explained about what the processes that happened during the day and were

told that the day was spent only in group building and introducing the training to them. They were made to realise the importance of the sessions which follow the next day. They were given the example of the cinema or television where advertisements used to be shown before the main picture. They were made to realise that the first day's activities were similar and if they wanted the full benefit of the camp, they should come for all the three days. They were made to see the need of attending for the remaining two days.

Session III

Review of the day's work:

A review was conducted at the end of the day on the day's activities. Most of the women felt very happy in coming to the training camp. They said that they enjoyed the various games and it was good learning process for them.

The facilitators had a tough time during the day in keeping the attention of the participants together, as for almost all of them, it was the first experience of attending a training camp and had to sit from morning till evening in one place. Further their span of attention was very short and they often started talking with their neighbours while the sessions were on. This situation however changed towards the end of the day and they became very attentive.

Home Work:

The participants were given home work. They were aked to observe their relationship with their husbands, children, parents and neighbours. They were asked to relate to them using their creative communication skills and not from the reaction based communication. They were told that they should share their experience the next day with others.

DAY TWO

02-05-1994 Monday

Session I

General Reflection:

The participants shared in the plenary session as to what happened at home the previous day night and in the morning. Many of them had totally different experience. Their relationships with their husbands, children and neighbours were different and was very good compared to the past. They did not react to the situations. Rather they brought the situations under their control and established a new kind of relationship. One woman went and talked to her neighbour with whom she did not talk for a very long time. Many women shared with their family members what happened in the camp. Many were able to solicit the cooperation of their family members who were reluctant to send them for the camp. Many said that they had a good and peaceful sleep. They were eager from the morning to come to the camp. Two women were prevented by their husbands from going to the camp and were beaten up. In spite of that they came to the session.

MODULE IV

WOMEN'S STATUS

Session I

Feed back exercise:

Objectives:

Getting feed back on the gender perspectives of the participant women.



Exercise:

The participants were asked to sit in one circle. In the middle several articles normally used by

women were placed. The articles kept were a) yellow threat used for Thali, b) a thali c) Turmeric d) Jasmine flowers e) rings used by married women in their leg fingers f) talcum powder g) mirror and comb h) Kum kum i) bangles etc. Each of the women was asked to go to the centre and touch the article which they thought very improtant to them and say why it was so. Most of the married women touched the thali, the yellow thread and the turmeric and said that for them, these three things mattered every thing in their life. They did not see any thing beyond the relationships with their husbands. The widows in the group said that they were averse to these things since they were not allowed to use them. The unmarried girls touched the flowers and the kum kum.

Outcome:

It helped the facilitators to know clearly what are the gender perspectives of the women who participated in the training programme. Without being judgmental about their views the facilitators drew conclusions that the participant women did not see their individual selves apart from their family and that these symbols played an important role in their life.

Session II

Exercise to understand the stauts of women in society:

Objective:

To enable the participants to understand their status as women in the society.



Process:

One woman from the group was asked to act as a volunteer. She stood in the middle of the hall where other participants sat around. There were many cloth ribbons kept in front of the volunteer.

Each woman in the group was asked to state one saying that is commonly used in the society to describe the role of women like "women are less intelligent when compared to men." The person who narrated the saying had to pick up one ribbon and go and tie it at the appropriate place of the body of the volunteer. For example, when a participant said that women are less intelligent then the person went and tied the ribbon around the head of the volunteer. Similarly when it was said that the women should not look up when they walk; a ribbon was tied over the eyes of the volunteer. At the end, when all the participants related the common notions prevailing in the society and the ribbons were tied over the body of the volunteer, it was found that the entire body of the volunteer was tied with ribbons. The participants were asked to reflect on this. They said that they were able to see how women are under bondage on account of the wrong societal values. They also reflected about themselves and said that each of them was carrying those invisible ribbons every day.

The second part of the exercise was to remove those ribbons after the participants formulated and stated a counter idea for the notions already stated. Each ribbon was untied when the participants came out with a counter idea. Finally through this assertion exercise they found that all the ribbons could be removed.

The participants were also able to reflect about their personal lives and shared with the entire group how certian prejudices in the society concerning women placed them at a disadvantageous position. For example, one woman stated that she was prevented from going to school after a particular age and now she finds the lack of education is a big handicap. Another women stated that she was not allowed by her parents from learning cycling and she finds that it was working to her disadvantange. All the participants said that they will not deny their daughters these opportunities.

Outcome:

As an outcome of this exercise the women were able to clearly understand their status and role in the family and the society. They also understood how the male dominated society puts restrictions on women in order to maintain the inequality. This exercise gave them opportunity also to assert their rights and feel confident and proud that they are women. It motivated them a lot to change their value system and also work for the betterment of the life of the women in general and the women of Mangalam in particular.

Session III

Input session:

The participants were given inputs on the role women in Society through a participatory discussion process. Various concepts were clarified and the were made to realise their strenghts as women is bringing about change in the societal values and beliefs.

MODULE V

LEGAL RIGHTS

Session I

Input session on Women's rights under variou family laws:

Objective:

Imparting knowledge and skills needed concerning their rights under the family laws.

Activity:

The various provisions on marriage, divorce maintenance and property rights were dealt with in this session not by way of lecture but by way of role play, dialogue and skits. The important messages were driven home.

Outcome:

All the participants became familiar with the legal provisions which are of immediate relevance to them like the age of marriage, legal conditions for marriage, grounds for judicial separation, divorce and legality of the practices prevailing in the society concerning divorce etc. and their rights regarding maintenance and their right to property.

Session II

Input session on the offences against women:

Objective:

To impart knowledge and skills regarding the law relating to offences against women and the procedures in getting redressal if they happen to be the victims.

Activity:

By lecture cum discussion, various offences under the Indian Penal Code and other special laws like Dowry Prohibition Act were explained. They were also made familiar with the procedure for initiating action for the violations.

Outcome:

The participants were able to see how certain

systemic violations like bigamy and extra-marital relationships are taken for granted in the society and how these things can be prevented by resorting to law. They also got confidence when they knew that eve teasing and domestic violence is punishable under law. Both the sessions gave them confidence on the law and legal system. They saw the need for using the law in appropriate situations.

Session III

Input session on Legal Strategies: Legal aid and Mediation:

The participants were given knowledge and skills on using the free legal aid and advice offered by the state and the use of counselling centres and other institutions.

The use of mediation process in settling family disputes was explained in detail. The need for starting a mediation centre for their village was also stressed.

Questions and answers:

The participants got an opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they got in the concrete situations through this question and answer session.

Outcome :

Many participant women narrated their personal cases and determined to seek redressal through the use of legal aid and mediation.

Session IV

Review of the day's programme:

At the end of the day each participant was made to reflect how the day went for them. Each one of them was enthusiastic and said that they felt very happy in being there and gained a lot of new knowledge and skills useful for their lives. They said that they were totally absorbed in the programme and they did not realise how the time went during the whole day.

The facilitators observed that there was not even one drop out from the first day and the level of participation was very high on the second day. They became more disciplined and able to concentrate for longer time.

Session V

Motivation to come for the next day's programme:

Time was spent on motivating the participants to come for the next day. They were also motivated to come on time.

DAY THREE

03-05-1994 Tuesday

Session I

Reflection:

The participants were made to reflect on what happened after they went home. Many had interesting episodes to tell. They saw a difference in their relationships within the family and outside. Some women had creatively dealt with the obstacles in coming for the third day's programme. A woman, whose husband even beat her and asked her not to go to the camp on the third day, managed to convince him saying that by attending the camp there would be monetary benefit for the family in the future. The motivation level and morale was very high on the third day morning.

MODULE V

FOLLOW UP PLAN

Objective:

Enabling the participants to make commitments for future in their personal life, family life, for the village and for the society at large.



Process :

Each of the participants was asked to state what goals they want to set for themselves as individuals, as members of the their families, and as residents of their village in the context of the newly acquired knowledge and skills.

Session I

Personal Goals:

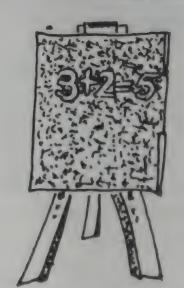
Many women stated that they will make themselved economically independent by acquiring some skill which will give them self employment. Others sat that they will save money and achieve economic security for themselves and for their families. Coup of women who got separated from their husbands said that they will initiate proceedings for getting maintenance. One or two women who got separeate from their husbands but had no share in the family property, have determined to use the legal process to get their share in the property.

Out of the 45 women who were attending the camp 25 were illiterates. All these 25 women said that they would become literates within one year. Amon the literate participants, 8 women came forward to teach them literacy.

Session II

Arivoli Iyakkam:

The Arivoli Iyakkam's Organisor who was presenthere at the camp was asked to explain the programme. He even initiated the first lessons for the learners after motivating them to learn.



Session III

Welfare programmes of the Pondicherry Government:



Two Deputy Directors from the Social Welfare Department came and explained to the participants various schemes implemented by their departments. The Chairperson of the Social Welfare Advisory Board was also present and explained about the schemes undertaken by them. The Family Counsellor from the Vilianoor counseling centre was present and explained to the participants about the counselling facility offered at the centre.

Outcome :

The Participants for the first time came to know of the various welfare schemes of the government. They became very enthusiastic about using the schemes. It gave a lot of confidence to the participants in terms of bettering their life and livelihood.

Session IV

Family goals:



In this session the participants were asked to set goals for their family. Many women said that they would bring up their girl children in a totally different environment. They said that they would provide their girl children good education. This was the dominant thought among many participants. Some of them expressed the idea of improving the relationships in the families and others wanted to improve the economic status of the family. A few women determined to change their husbands who were addicted to alcohol.

Session V

Goals for the village:

As women, the participants felt that they are powerful and can change the life of the village. When they set the goals for their village they have decided to bring other women who have not come for the training camp into their fold and motivate them. For this purpose they volunteered to do work in this direction. About 33 women stood as volunteers. The difficulties in being volunteers were explained to them and yet they said that they would act as volunteers. These volunteers agreed to be fully responsible for the successful implementation of the Mangalam Project.

Session VI

Input session on Mangalam Project:

The Organisor and the two Anganvadi Workers deputed for the Mangalam Project spoke to the participants about the objectives, process and expected outcome of the Mangalam project. The participants asked questions and sought clarifications on the project.

This session helped the participants to understand the whole project in perspective and to locate their role in the project implementation. The training facilitators made it clear to the participants that they are not mere beneficiaries of the project but also the key people in implementing the project. They were made to understand that they are partners in implementing the project.

Session VII

Exercise in Appreciation

Before the close of the session the participants were made to realise how valuable it is to apprecaite things and not to look at them in a negative way always. This was true of the relationships and people. So each of the participant was asked to pair up and appreciate the good things they saw in their partners. It opened up a lot of good feelings and improved their inter personal relationships. Then the participants were asked to express appreciation for any thing and every thing they considered good in the camp and in their family. The participants were spontaneous in appreciating the positive aspects they see in life. They were of the opinion that their life can be better if only they appreciate their husbands, children and other human beings in their life.

Valedictory Session:

At the end of the third day a valedictory function was held. Dr. Sundaravadivelu, Director, Social Welfare Department, was present. Mrs. Velu, President, Association for Social Health of India and member of the coordinating committee for Mangalam Project, presided and gave away the certificates for the participants. Ms. Vanmathi, the organisor of the Project,



proposed vote of thanks. The evaluation of the camp was done during the valedictory session. Almost all the participants felt very happy in coming to the camp and said that it was a great opportunity

for them to reflect about their lives. They unequivocally said that "Mangalam Project" was their project and that they would do everything to make it a success.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. The training facilitators feel that the objectives of the training camp were fully achieved based on the following indicators:
 - a) all the 45 women paticipants came for all the three days without any monetary incentives.
 - b) the level of participation was very high.
 - c) the participants committed themselves to fully to participate in the implementation of Mangalam Project.
- 2. The women were not only able to come together but also they became a cohesive group.
- 3. The women who attended the camp were able to see their self worth and gained a lot of confidence in themselves and as a collective. They developed a pride in being women.
- 4. The participants were able to take charge of their lives, their family and the village and not react to circumstances.
- 5. The women were willing to face the problems and challenges specific to them as women and learnt to deal with them in a creative way. For example there were seven women who attempted suicide in the past in the group of 45 women. But now they all vowed that in the future they would not even think of attempting to commit suicide.
- 6. The participants acquired knowledge and skills in law and became enthusiastic about getting redressal for their problems through the process of law.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW UP ACTION

- 1. As desidred by the participants, there is need to organise follow up camps to consolidate the gains and sustain the motivation:
- 2. Camps for the women who have no participated in the present camp, particular for the Pet Women may be organised.
- 3. Periodic meetings for the volunteers and the women of Mangalam may be organised.
- 4. A meeting for men and youth in the villag needs to be organised to explain about the project and to solicit their cooperation.
- 5. Literacy programme for not only the participants of the training camp but alse for all the illiterate women of Mangalam may be conducted.
- 6. Facilities for self employment for the deserving women need to be created.
- 7. The Mangalam women can be facilitated to use various welfate schemes of the government. The selection of beneficiaries may be done in a participatory process by the women themselves in order to avoid division among them.
- 8. Among the various problems listed by the women concerning their village, some atleast, need to be tackled as part of Mangalam Project. This will give the women a sense of achievement.
- 9. The legal aid department may be contacted to provide assistance of a woman lawyer to the women to process the cases already identified and the cases that may come up,
- 10. Access to the family counseling centre at Vilianoor needs to be created since many women appear to be needing family counselling.



Annexure I

Survey

Complete survey of the village was little delayed as there were some deficiencies regarding particula about government beneficiaries. It was also pointed out by the system annalyst of NIC that the code word must be incorporated to feed the particulars in.

Accordingly, the particulars of the benefits were incorporated after getting them from the Agricultur Co-op. Society, Mangalam High School, District Rural Development Agency, Anganwadi Centre and VAO Office. The code words were also coined and added.

The modified survy particulars were submitted on 25th April forenoon.

The Following are the break-up:

Mangalam 332

Mangalampet 85

Total 417

Tailoring Unit

As decided earlier for starting tailoring unit at Mangalam, further steps were taken. The Managing Director, Pondicherry Corporation for Development of Women Ltd. visited the village on 18th April to get a first hand information about the village and women folk in particular. A list of eligible candidates (women) was given to the Managing Director for interview.

On 25th April afternoon the interview was conducted by the Managing Director at the Mangalam Project Office. Out of 34 women appeared 21 were selected. A place was also found. The exact date of starting the tailoring unit will be intimated soon.

Referrel Service

On invitation from Chairman ASHI, I visited the family counselling centre at Reddiarpalayam where I met the counsellors and came to know about the kind of work and other activities. On 27th April one of the counsellors came to Mangalam Project office and visited the house of a girl whose case has been already referred to them. Another case of a wife being constantly beaten by her husband was also taken up by them.

On the same day one parent from Kadirkamam, Pondicherry, came to seek legal help for her widowed daughter who was remarried and deserted by her husband. The counsellor took up that case also.

Workshop

I was deputed to attend one day workshop on "Family Courts Act" on 30.4.94. I participated in the discussion under the head "Family problems require social therapy" and it gave me an opportunity to know about the legal aspects of institution of marriage.

Women Leadership and Legal Literacy Training Camp

On 11th April I went to LRSA Changleput to discuss for arranging a legal literacy camp for Mangalam Women. Tentatively it was fixed to conduct the camp on 21st, 22nd and 23rd April. However, due to unforeseen reason, it was postponed to 1-3rd May.

A pre-training camp session was held with the participants who represented all areas of the village. Participation from parents was not encouraging and that should be thoroughly probed.

On 1st May the above camp was innaugurated by our Chairperson Mrs. Anjani Dhayanand in the presence of Collector-cum-Secretary Mr. R. Narayana who presided. The Director of Social Welfare Dr. S. Sundaravadivelu welcomed the dignitaries, trainers and trainees. The other guest speakers were Mrs. Renuga Appadurai, Chairman, Social Welfare Advisory Board, Mr. Ghanaprakasam, Director, LRSA Chengleput.

LIBRARY

DOCUMENTATION

There were 45 women participants and all of them came for all the three days. And they enthusiastically participated and promised to bring real change in their lives. Out of 45 women 4 were unmarried girls, 4 were widows and some have problems in their family. 7 of them attempted to commit suicide earlier. Now they promised that they will live with courage and hope. A detailed report of the activities of the training camp will be sent by the Director, LRSA.

On 3rd May the valedictory funcition was held. Mrs. Lakshmi Devi Velu participated and gave away the certificate to the various participants.

Every Thursday afternoon at 3 PM I and workers had the weekly meeting with the chair person. The weeks works was reviewed and work for the following week was planned. The Programme being monitored every week. One of the specific areas has been identified i.e. Adult Education. Our experience in the training camp shown that we have to concentrate on the Adult Education component to ensure that the women do not slide back.

Mangulam Village:

Mangalam Village is near Villianur in Pondicherry with about 500 families. The predominant Communities there are Gounders and Chettiars and 50% of the population live below the poverty line. Others belonging to the scheduled caste live separatly in Mangalampet. The village has Government School, Health Centre and some Anganwadies.

The two Counsellors of the Family Counselling Centre and two other Counsellors from Arnodayam, Counselling cum de-addiction Centre run by Association for Social Health in India, Pondicherry Branch visited Mangalam on 18.5.94, 25.5.94 and 1.6.94 for rendering Conselling Services.

During their first visit Corner meetings were organised to meet the people and create awarness about Conselling as the best technique to solve family problems. On their second visit on 25.5.94 cases relating to dowry, extra-marital relationships, family problems arising out of property disputes and alcholism were referred to Counsellors.

At present the following cases were offered Counselling:-

- 1) Smt. Virudammal: She was married to a man whom she discovered later to be mentally retarded and was forced to live with him and his family. So she left him and is now living with her parents. But she is deeply distressed and depressed has suicidal tendency. Ego-strengthening advice is being given and Counselling is going on. Steps are being taken with the help of the Legal Aid cell to get maintenance for her from her husband.
- 2) Vijayarani: She has obtained divorce unable to bear the dowry damand of her husband who is a government servant. She was depressed and feels insecure and worried about her future. As the cient was highly depressed effective insight development was adopted to bring confidence in her life. She was given maintenance allowance of Rs. 50/- per month which is mearge. So efforts are made to enhance the amount to Rs. 100/- a month through the Court.
- 3) Ammathei: A widow aged 35 years continued to live in her father-in law's evicted by her brother -in-law and the house where she lived was also demolished by him. He has also refused to give her share of the property. This has affected the woman mentally. So ego-strengthening advice and Counselling was given to her and efforts were made to settle this property dispute in the Village Panchayat.

Altogether four alcoholics have been refferred to Arunodayam for treatment and Counselling.

Annexure II

Report on Managalam Project

26.3.94

I Group Meeting

Initial awarencess meeting was conducted for 4 different groups on 22nd, 24th and 25th Feb.

About 11 mothers participated.

Adult Literacy Coordinator, Animator, Youth Club Members and village leaders were also invited to tapart in the discussion.

Selected 8 volunteers (Mothers) from each group.

Identified their problems like street light, public latrine, dustbin etc.

One area wanted to constitute Madhar Sangam.

Another area wanted to have a tailoring unit.

Tea was served at the end of all the meetings.

Asked their cooperation while we survey their houses.

II Women's day celebrations.

With the help of Madhave Sangams, Youth Clubs, and other village volunteers we conducted women day celeberation on 7th March at Mangalam.

SK Started with cleaning campaign in and around the temple.

Conducted kolapatti in the temple where 30 mothers were participated from Mangalam and 18 from participated from participated from Mangalam and 18 from participated from Mangalam and 18 from participated from Mangalam and 18 from participated from participated from Mangalam and 18 from part

- 1. Programme officer of I.C.D.S.
- 2. Asst. Director, Dept. of Social Welfare,
- 3. Medical Officer, High School, Mangalam
- 4. Drawing Teacher, High School, Mangalam.

Afternoon sports was conducted in Mangalam and Managalampet separately. They are:

1. Bombing the city.

Attended International Women's day celebration conducted by ASHI on 5th March '94 at Mullinpoor Gave a brief talk on Mangalam Project in Doordarshan.

III. Services

Collected application forms from the Director of SN for verius schemes in the Dept. Identified beneficiaries for pension and other schemes.

An idea has been mooted by the Chairperson to start a tailoring unit, for the benefit of woman folk a Mangalam. This was agreed by the Managing Director of Pondicherry Corporation for Development of Wome Ltd.

To conclude, the field staff of the project used to have weekly discussion with the Chairperson. The helps immensely for us to plan and execute the work effectively. And we expect the continued co-operationand guidelines of the Advisory Committee.

Sd/-(Vanmathi Gunasegaran) Project Organiser Magalam Project

2. Catching your partner.

The supervisor of ICDS Project, I helped in conducting the sports.

In the evening, the Adult literacy coodinator and 2 field animators conducted written test for the new literates.

For the winners prizes are yet to be distributed.

On the same day the Medical Officer of IWS arranged for a health camp with the help of Social Welfare Dept. 5 Specialist doctors from various places attended the camp. 350 patients were examined and given medical help. Two were referred to G.H.

Survey

For the village and family survey, forms were made ready by the Director Social Welfare.

An anganwedi worker from pet is also involved in the survey.

No. of houses surveyed up to 24th March-260.

No. of completed survey forms given to the Director for analysis-142.

No. houses to be surveyed roughly-100-150.

IV. Setting up an office at Mangalam.

The Secretary of Social Welfare-cum-collector was kind enough to give permission to spare a room in VAO's office at Mangalam.

Director of S.N. provided us with Furniture and other stationary materials.

The office started functioning from 9.3.94.

V. Referrel Service

Referred one girl to the Family Counselling Centre, Caddarpalayam.

VI. Workshop

Director of SN deputed the project organizer to attend one day workshop on effective communication skills to strengthen interpersonal countership in the family organisation by the Association for Social Health in Chalia (HSH) on 12th March 94.

Annexure III

SURVEY

The National Informatic Centre (NIC) started feeding the data of the modified survey particulars in computer. With the help of the System Analyst I worked out the possible results that can be obtained from the data. As a first result, a list of requirements of Households in Managlampet area was obtained. T complete results will be made available soon after analysis.

MADHAR SANGAM

In one area of Mangalam village there was no Madhar Sangam. After attending the Women's Leadersh and Legal Training Camp, they wanted to constitute and new Madhar Sangam among themselves. They gathered in group and formed a sangam and sent it for name registration.

ADULT EDUCATION

The commune coordinator and the APS conducted meeting for the villagers. Four volunteers car forward to carry out the Adult Education classes in their area. The APO will be visiting the project office of every Wednesday morning, and they will also surpervise and guide the Adult Education Centre. Due to the efforts youth members of Egham thamilar narpani Mamdram started two Arivoli centres.

REFERREL SERVICE

A counsellor from the Family Counselling Centre at Reddiarpalayam, and 2 two counsellors for Arunodhayam are visiting the project office on Wednesday afternoons. Initially they went around the village along with us and distributed pamphlets about the service they render. Two deserted ladies came forward wit their problems for counselling. Some gents (Alcoholics) also approached the counsellors of Arunodhayam for

On 2nd June they conducted a meeting in the pet 20 women, 10 men participated. Two men sufferein from alcoholism were helped by the counsellors to get admitted in hospital, and six men agreed to come for counselling to get away from the habit. They also made arrangements to admit 2 orphan children in a orphanage and 2 in a regular school. Follow up action was taken for 3 destitute women.

STREET PLAY AND PUBLIC MEETING

As we felt the need of a public meeting for the men folk to get their co-operation we approached the Chairperson, in this regard. She immediately agreed for this and arranged for the street play on 28.5.94 and a public meeting on 29.5.94. The street play was conducted on 28.5.94 (Saturday) around 7.30 PM at the temple grounds. There was a good gathering of men, women and children. They had an enjoyable experience In that play the LRSA team from Chengalpet depicted the project objectives, and some of the social problems experienced by the women folk of the Mangalam very interestingly.

The public meeting was held on 29.5.94 (Sunday). We had a tough time to make the men folk attended this meeting. Though the response for the meeting was not very encouraging we were satisfied with the result Many of them cam to know about the project objectives, and came forward to share their views and grievenacs.

Their main grievances are lack of Hospial, Library, Playground, Hand pump, Bus Stop, Shelter, More bus facilities, Public Latrine, Electricity in some areas and Market.

At the end, twenty people volunteered themselves to participate in the various activities of the project and support it.

VISIT

Visited Volontariat on 3rd June and spent the whole day with them. They took us to the differend units such as embroidery sections, beed section and creche. In the creche they give atmost care for the poor childeren like bathing, dressing, caring and feeding so on.

We had a pre-lunch talk with the foundress of Volontariat. It was a nice sight to see school children (sponsored by them) having their noon-meals together.. In the afternoon we visited another section of Volontariat. Atelier Shanthi, situated in Dubraypet, a seashore. There, cured leprosy patients are the main workers of the weaving workshop. Most of their products are being exported.

It caters the local poor and downtrodden in that area and gives them a good opportunity to live with dignity. This organisation is a leading light and hope for the leprosy people.

Meeting for Men

A follow up meeing was arranged on 6th June for men. The session was headed by the Director, Social Welfare and conducted by Dr. D.K. Sampath and Deputy Director, Social Welfare. Both the factions from the village and pet participated. In the meeting they realised their role in the devolopment of the village. Towards that they suggested to have the following basic needs. Hand Pump, Street Lights, one light service. Public Latrine, Library, Bus Shed, Play Ground and so on. They agreed to have a post literacy centre. Applications were called for from the unemployed youth for training in plumbing, carpentary and electrical wiring. 5 persons volunteered themselves to undergo training in street play.

District Rural Development Agency:

I met the officials of District Rural Development Agency on 7th June (Assistant Programme Officer. Block Development Officer and other field staff) They gave the recent survey list of those who are under poverty line form Mangalam. We have identified some special cases other than those in the survey list for District Rural Development Agency's help.

Mediation Centre:

On 8th June, Director of Social Welfare along with Mr. D. K. Sampth, Ms. Usha, Advocate, came for mediation at Mangalam Office. The Chairperson of ASHI and her counsellors were also present. 11 cases came, out of which 3 cases were taken up by the advocate and some by the counsellors and few by the department of social welfare.

1st follow up Meeting of 1st batch of Trainees

There was a follow up meeting on 9th June conducted by the Chairperson, Mangalam Project, at the school premises. The Director, Deputy Director, Social Welfare were also present. The participants were happy with the training camp. and they wanted to have such camps in future. For their economical upliftment the trainees suggested to have, Agarpathi unit, Appalam Sambar podi, Making unit, Mat Weaving Unit and wet grinding machines. Among the participants 8 were taking classes for Arioli Iyakkam and they assured that they will continue the same. 2 women came forward to get training in the street play.

Annexure IV

Preparatory Mediation Meeting for Youth Camp

A motivation/medication talk was arranged for youth by Legal Resources for Social Action. A six members team arrived on 14.7.94 to meet the youth and to make them participate in the forthcoming Youth camp in the village and for case study. There are two youth clubs functioning in the village with different ideology and with different political application. They are Club I-II on Thamilar Narpani Mandram.

Club-II Bharatha Nesa Madha Ihangar Narpani Mandram

Ground work was done by the field staff for the above meeting. Of the six members team, 4 were involved in case study and 2 were involved in motivation/mediation talk with the youth.

The LRSA team met the two club members separately, to make them participate in the camp. They aired their grievances and views against each other. Club-I agreed to attend the camp alongwith the members of the Club-II and provided with a list of participants. Club-II also agreed to attend but with a condition that their Local leaders and a leader at Vilianur should be consulted and get their consent. So we went to meet the leaders. The local leaders were not available on that day. However we could meet the leader at Villianur. They assured that Club-II members will participate in the camp.

The same day evening we met Club-I members and asked them to have a meeting on 15th morning. So on 15th morning we had a meeting in one of their houses of Club-I. Around 15 members came. In that meeting they too argeed to have a youth camp alongwith the club-II.

In the project office at Managalam a common meeting was held for Club-I and Club-II executive members on 15th afternoon. Venue dates for the camp were discussed. There was difference of opinion about the venue among the two groups. However they both agreed to have the school premises as venue and they also assured that they will not create any problem till the camp is over. The date for the youth camp was fixed for 26th to 28th July.

We the field staff approached the Headmaster of the Mangalam Government High school to spare the premises for the above camp. He readily agreed to give the new building. Though we received a list participants from Club-I in advance, we did not receive any from Club-II till 25th of July.

Youth Camp

On 26th morning three members & LRSA team arrived. The Club-I members started coming for came Since there was no one from Club-II, we dicided to meet their local leaders. We could meet only one of the local leaders. We had a lengthy discussion with him. It was difficult for him to accept that the Club-II will have common camp with Club-I. After lot of pursuation he finally agreed to send Club-II members for the came In the meantime the other group (Club-I) was engaged by some member of LRSA till noon. Then both had lunctogether.

After lunch around 20'clock the youth camp was formally innaugurated by the Director, Socal Welfard 20 members from club-I, 16 from Club-II, Participated.

On the second day Club-II members came out with some grievances which we assured that they wibe looked into. The second day session went on very well. The exercises, games gave them good opportunit for better undrestanding and report among themselves. The atmosphere during lunch was very fine a observed the way they served lunch one another. After the second day session was over, Secreatary of Club-II came with an acccusation that the tea which was served in the evening was from a shop belonging to Club-I supporter and he also engirily told that we are in favour of Club-I especially the 2 field workers. The LRSA team tried to convince them and I also told tim that in future the tea will be arranged elsewhere.

For the 3rd day the Club-I members came in time. But the Club-II members were on the roads and did not turn up for the camp. Mr. D. K. Sambath and Mr. D. Ghannapragasam, Director, LRSA were present for the 3rd day. They went and asked the reason for not participating. They came out with another accusation that in the Tamil News there was a column about news on Arivoli Programmes, highlighting the active participation of the members of Club-I and complete black out of their participation.

According to them they had also participated actively. They wanted it to be clarified by Director, Social Welfare. So the Director of Social Welfare was contacted by phone for his advice and direction. He advised to hold on the meeting till he comes.

By now the Club-I members became restless, and they started telling that if you do not start the camp by 10.30 A.M. we all will quit the place. In the meantime a news about the death of one of the leaders of Club-I, who was ill for long time came. So they all dispersed immediately.

Till the Director, Social Walfare, came Mr. D. K. Sambath engaged the Club-II members for a long time. He called the Arivoli area organisor Mr. Dass to give enough note books and books to the Club-II members.

After the arrival of the Director of Social Welfare a mediatory talk was conducted by Mr. D. K. Sambath, Director, LRSA and their team, Deputy Director, Social Welfare and field stafff were participated. To carry out some programme of Mangalam project a common committee comprising both Club members was proposed. Club-II members agreed for that on principle. However they wanted it to be confirmed by their leaders as they cannot take any decision by themselves. It was unfortunate to that the camp ended abruptly. Two social welfare organisers came as observers for the youth camp.

Case Study

Out of the six members came from LRSA on 14th July, a 4 members team headed by Dr. Meera was formed to study cases for counselling. They went into the village, met the mothers of the village and studied the cases individually and wrote their recommendations. On 15th July afternoon at Mangalam Project Office Dr. Meera conducted a meeting in which the counsellors from ASHI, and Social Welfare Board attended. In this meeting, we discused about each case. It was suggested to have periodical film shows to educate the rural folk, about the ill effects of alcoholism and other vices.

Mediation and Counselling Centre

At the residence of the Chairperson on 18th July a special meeting was conducted. Director, Social Welfare, Miss Usha, Advocte, Dr. Venugopal, Psychologist from JIPMER, Mrs. Malini, Miss Niraimathi, Counsellors of Social Welfare Advisory Board, Mr. Andrew, Mr. Prabhu, Counsellors from ASHI attended the meeting. The case studies referred by Dr. Meera were discussed. At present counsellors were coming in different days in a week. Now it was decided to have the counselling one day a week by all the counsellors (i.e. Wednesday afternoon). The Advocate will join the conselling on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and the psychologist will join them after getting permission from the Director, JIPMER. The Director, Social Welfare agreed to send vehicle for them on wednesday.

Free Legal Aid Camp

A team of members was sent by Mr. Krishan Lattin, Member Secretary, Legal Aid Cell on 2.8.94 for the free legal aid camp in Mangalam village along with our field workers, Mani and Lakshmi. They went into the village and pet and called the needed people through Mega Phone. On the spot they registered 16 cases, out of which 13 cases came to get birth certificates and other 3 for family and property matters. For follow up they asked them to come to Villianur Block Development Office every Thursday evening at 5 O'Clock for legal aid.

Legal Literacy Camp for Women -III from 12.8.94 to 14.8.94

Our field workers Mani and Lakshmi went around the village for 3 days to enroll the names for the women's camp. Some gave their names voluntarily and some gave their nameds with motivation. I met Mather Sangam Loaders from pet and village also few women asking for their co-ooperation.

This time also the Headmaster was kind enough to give the new School building for us. The LRSA team with 4 member alongwith their Director arrived on 11th evening itself and had a meeting with the Chairperson. The Director LRSA left to Chengalpet that day itself.

On 12th August the women's camp was innaugurned by the Deputy Director of Social Welfare. As a special invitee Miss. USha, Advocate attended the camp for the whole day. 345 women participated.

The New Methodology and games made the women's camp very interesting. On the 2nd day Assistant Project Officer, DRDA came and gave a useful talk about DRDA and on the 3rd day the Deputy Director spoke about the various schemes of the Social Welfare Department.

For the Valedictory function, Director, Social Welfare, Chairman, ASHI came. The Director lighted the "Kuthuvilakku" and each participant shared their views, experiences which they gained during the camp by symbolically lighting the "Agalvilakku." Mrs. Lakshmi Devi Velou presided over the function and gave away the certificates.

Out of rough by 400 women in the age group of 18-45, 125 women have attended in three women's camp. i.e. 31% of women have trained already. After the 3rd camp 3 women gave their names for the next camp. But we feel it is difficult to have another camp in near future. If enough names are enrolled, we can conduct the women's camp after two months.

Adult Education

I have not mentioned anything about the Adult Education but work is going on. Since it has been attended by the Adult Education people, the Commune Coordinator will give a report for the next meeting.

VANATHI GUNASEGARAN

Annexure V

During the period under report three cases with family problems were taken up for Counselling.

1) Krishnaamy: Nautre of the Problem: He is a 35 year old toddy-tapper having five children. Due to h suspicious character his wife committed suicide a year ago. This has affected him very much and he do not come home for days. This has resulted in the utter neglect of his children who are of school going ag

Assistace Rendered: As he lost his wife due to his suspicious character he was feeling guilty and was deeply depressed, so, psychologically supportive advice was given to him to gain confidence in his lift lnsight development method was adopted to help him ventilate his feelings and emotions. It was understood that he wanted to look after his children and make them happy. He was advised to save for his children future. Two of his children have been admitted in a hostel. His eldest daughter is looking after the family Periodical follow-up is going on.

2) Vasanthi: Nature of the problem: The client is 32 year old having three children. Her husband a alcoholic addict has no job. So with her mother's financial help she has set up a petty shop to maintain he family. Her husband takes everything in the house and sells in order to drink. This has ruined the family So, the client approached our Centre for help.

Assistance rendered: During counselling the client revealed that her husband had attempted to kill her by pouring kerosine and setting fire on her. He had also attempted suicide on several occasions but was saved by the neighbours. The client wanted separation from him.

Steps are being taken-to admit the alcoholic husband in the General Hospital, Pondicherry for deaddiction and Psychiatric treatment. Motivation Therapy is being given to the client to encourage her to hold the family together.

3) Nagamuthu: Nature of the problem: He is a 35 year old man having two children. He is an alcoholic addict and his wife died 2 years ago. He neglects his children who are fed and looked after by the villagers. This case was referred to us by the Mathar Sangam Leader from Mangalam Village.

Assistance rendered: In the beginning when the Counsellor approached him he was adamant and refused to come for treatment. He also refused to send his children to school. Environmental Modification method adopted by the Consellor helped him to relies the difficult condition of this family. The children have been admitted in a Boarding School due to the efforts of the Counsellor.

Annexure VI

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM IST JUNE 1994 TO 10TH JULY 1994

During the period under report four cases with family problems were taken up for counselling.

1) Nallathambi: Nature of the problem: He is a 60 year old agricultural labourer. He is married but has no children. One day when he returned from the field he was shocked to see his wife having illicit relationship with another man. Inspite of his warning his wife continued to do the same and this aggravated him and he attacked her with a knife and escaped. She was hurt in the hand and she lodged a complaint with the police. The police arrested him and he was put in Jain. After a few days he was released and now he has received summons from the Court. He has approached our Family Counselling Centre for help.

Assistant rendered: The Counsellor after gathering the details from the client gave him individual Counselling, supplemented with Ego-strengthening and Psychologically supportive advice. Then the Counsellor made arrangements to secure the services of an advocate who filed case in the Court on his behalf.

2) Irusamma: Nature of the proble: She is 45 years old married and has no children. Her husband is working as Wardboy in the General Hospital. He married another woman and has been living with her separately for the last 12 years. The first wife filed a suit for maintenance and succeeded in getting it. Her husband paid her maintenance allowance just for 3 months and stopped. So she has approached our Family Counselling Centre for help and guidance.

Assistance rendered: The Counsellor met the advocate from the Legal Aid Clinic and explained the details of Irusamma's case. He also gave Psychologically supportive and ego-strengthening advice to the client.

3) Malliga: Nature of the Proble: She is a 30 year old married woman and has four dauthers. Her husband doubted her fidelity and due to deep depression took to alcohol and beat the often. So she left him with her two younger daughters and is now living with her mother.

Assistance rendered: The Counsellor gave individual Counselling to her at first. Then visited her home and gave Family Counselling to both the husband and wife. Counselling sessions are still going on.

Annexure-VII

Report for the Period From 15th July 94 - 10th August 94

Follow-up Cases: Vijayarani: The Free Legal Aid Cell appointed an Advocate to handle her case and a swas filed in the Court on her behalf.

Nallathammi: The client was presented before the Judicial Magistrate at the Criminal Court for his Cast The client was aquitted by the Judge.

Irusamma: Irusamma was called to obtain the evidence document of her case. But she was not able provide any of the decouments to file a case in the Courts. So, the case was not filed in the Court.

This case has been referred to Family Counselling Centre of the Police Women's Cell. The Client haile from Mangalam Pet area.

Malliga: During the Counselling Sessions the Counsellor found that the client had illegal relationship wind many persons. Her husband tried to correct her of her immoral behaviour but he did not succeed. So, he led his wife and is living separately with his two elder daughters.

The client has been continuing her illegal relationship with other person. Due to this her husband not willing to live with the client.

This case has been referred to Police Cell for Crime against Women.

Krihsnaveni: After counselling the client's husband had completely changed his behaviour and he was no giving trouble to his family. Reconciliation was done between the couple.

New Cases: Mrs. Dhanalakshmi:

Nature of the problem: She, is 20 years old, unmarried, having three younger brothers. Her father is a agricultural coohi. She was physically handicapped, so, she was having inferiority complex due to this, she was very much depresed and worried about her life.

She approached our centre for help.

Assistance rendered: Psychological supportive and ego-strengthening advice was given to the client. Family Counselling was also given to the client's family members. The Counsellor approached the Project Officer of "Worth Trust" in order to admit the client in the Home for the Handicapped; they have not admitted her in the home as the client was above 11 years.

Palaniammal:

Nature of the problem: The client's husband was an alcoholic and spent all his money for consuming alcohol. He battered his wife without any reason. She was depressed and worried about her future. Due to this intolerable situation, she left her husband and is now living with her parents at Panruti. This case was referred to us by the Client's grand mother.

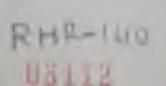
Assistance rendered: The Counsellor gave individual counselling to the client's husband to realise his mistake and advised him to take treatment at the De-addtiction Centre.

Mrs. Govindammal:

Nature of the problem: She was an illiterate and second wife of an agricultural coolie. Her husbend was cheated of his share of the property by his brother. The documents concerning the property were taken by her brother-in-law's children. Due to this reason she was very much depressed and worried about her family.

She approached the Counsellor for help.

Assistance rendered: The Counsellor gave individual counselling to the couple to get relief from their worries. Psychological supportive and ego-strengthening advice was given to the client.





Arunodayam, Counselling-Cum-Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts and Alcoholics Run By Association for Social Health In India, Pondicherry Branch -

Report for the Period from 1st June to 15th July 1994.

V. Rama Prabou, Counsellor, Arunodayam (A.S.H.I. Pondicherry Branch)

Every Wendnesday 2 Counsellors from Arunodayam visit Mangalam village to render Counselling services, 8 Corner meetings on 8-6-94, 15-6-94, 29-6-94, 13-7-94 were held with the help of the local Madhar Sangam. Housewives and their husbands were participants. The topics covered in these meetings were as follows:

- 1. Ill effects of drug abuse and alcoholism.
- 2. How addiction either to drugs or alchol ruins the life of an addict socially, physically, mentally and economically.
- 3. How to identify a drug addicts.
- 4. The responsibility of the family members to protect their children and other from taking to either drugs or alcohol.
- 5. The responsibility of the society to rescue and rehabilitate the addits.
- 6. How to approach Arunodayam for free Counselling and Treatment.

So far, 17 addicts have been identified in Mangalam village, 17 cases have been treated at Arunodayam by the Psychiatrist. Counselling has been given to all the 17.

On 13th & 15th July a Youth awareness meeting was organised werein a group discussion on the prevention of drug abuse and alcoholism was discussed in detail.

Arunodayam has made arrangements with the field publicity department, Government of India, to show films on the dangers of drug abuse and alcoholism in the villages particularly Managalam from August 1994. The Counsellors of Arunodayam have also planned to show slides regarding the same in their awareness generation meetings and to do follow-up regularly.

Annexure IX

Mangalam Phase II- Paper for Discussion in the Meeting to be held on 19-8-94 at 4.30 P.M.

Context:

- Follow up to Mangalam project
 Trainers Training Course for Social Walfare Department
- 2. Need for comprehensive village Development
- 3. Need to address specific issues.
 - Unemployment
 - Alcoholism
 - Non utilisation of Government Schemes
 - Low Status of women
 - Lack of access to Justice for women
 - Lack of Leadership among men & women
 - Lack of unity and participation of men & women in village development
 - Legal illiteracy
 - lack of coordination between Development Agencies

Vision:

Humane village Communities with sustainable Development and Participatory Democracry

Mission:

Social Welfare Department becoming relevant and responsive to over all development of village communities.

Goal:

Increasing the quality of life of men, women, youth and children in 5 satellite villages.

Objectives:

- 1. Creating legal literacy among men and women
- 2. Creating access to justic for Women
- 3. Facilitating economic Development through increased participation in Govt. Welfare Schemes
- 4. Creating awareness about the self, role in the family, village and society among men and women
- 5. Making the present ICDS Programme effective
- 6. Facilitating good communication between various departments of Governments, Government Welfare Agencies, NGOs and people.
- 7. Increasing the participation of the people on Government schemes through village committees.
- 8. Preparation and Publication of legal literacy materials
 - Mass Literature
 - Training material

Activities:

- 1. Base line survey and situation analysis-3 months' Jan-Mar
- 2. Training of staff 3 months
- 3. Rapport Building
 - Cultural Programmes
 - Village Meetings
 - House Visits
- 4. Training Programmes on Leadership and legal literacy
 - men x 2 batches per village
 - women x 2 batches per village
- 5. Formation of committees

One committee specially for women

- 1. Population survey of families should have been completed in and analysis and prioritising of the issues should have been done in the first two months.
- 2. Training of concerned Social Welfare Organisers. Anganwadi workers and Volunters from Mangalam should haven taken place in the next 3 months.
- 3. The implementing staff should have established good rapport with men, women and youth by organising
 - a) Cultural Progarmme
 - b) House visits and
 - c) Facilitate meetings of different sections of the people in the next 2 months among themselves
- 4. Follow-up training programes in leadership and law:
 - a) each bath of (one day duration) should have been conducted (5 villages x 4 batches).
 - b) Training programmes in leadership and law for 2 batches of 40 people each separately for men and women should have been conducted in 12 months.
 - c) In each of the 5 villages a village committee consisting of :
 - i) men and women
 - ii) of women only should have been formed
- 5) All individual cases in the village should have got counselling, advice and legal aid.
- 6) After the training is complete, monthly village meetings between people and various welfare departments should have been conducted.
- 7) create a climate for effective implementaion of Govt. Schemes.
- 8) Mass Literacy pamphlets should be available in adequate numbers for distribution.
- 9) handbooks on women and law should have been prepared and distributed

LRSA's Role:

- 1) Facilitating base line survey and situation analysis
- 2) Training of Trainers (Staff)
- 3) Training Programmes, Follwo-up training for men and women
- 4) Preparation of learning material
- 5) Participating programme review (evaluation)
- 6) Training of staff for baseline survey and situation analysis.

Annexure-X

Monthly Report Mangalam Project by the Project Organiser

TRAINING FOR ARIVOLI VOLUNTEERS

A training session for volunteers was arranged on 30-8-94 afternoon. 8 men and 12 women volunteer both form Mangalam Village and pet participated. The central project co-ordinator Mr. P. N. Gopalakrishnar gave a talk to motivate the volunteers. Mr. Sadagopan, Commune Co-ordinator took a class on "How to teach a Beginner", method of teaching, techiniques and skills of teaching. The area Arivoli organiser and the Mangalam Field worker also spoke.

At one end of the meeting two volunteers took model class. All of them agreed to come for follow up meetings in future. Snacks and tea were served.

VOLUNTEERS FOR STREET PLAY

We asked the various sections of the prople in the village to come as volunteers to undergo training in the street play at Chengalpet. 12 men and 8 women enrolled themselves for the same.

SOCIO ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES

In the village some women ratio identified for the socio economic upliftment of women folk for various programmes based on the following :

- 1. Age group between 20 & 40
- 2. Married women
- 3. Legal Literacy trainee

Preference was given to the deserted and destitute women

FOLLOW UP FREE LEGAL AID CAMP

On 14th September I went to free legal Aid Cell, Pondicherry, requested them to conduct a camp on free legal aid, since the beneficiaries of the 1st camp (2.8.94) where not able to get their birth certificates. The Manager of the team readily accepted and the follow up camp was fixed on 19.9.94. All the beneficiaries were informed and they gathered. But due to unforseen rensons the Legal Aid Specialist could not come for that day.

YOUTH CAMP

The Club-I members requested us to arrange for another youth camp as the last one ended abruptly. The matter was discussed with the Chairperson and it was decided that they can have separate youth camps on a later date. However, the articles may be Library books and sports articles may be distributed to them at the Directorate of Social Welfare on a convenient date.

COUNSELLING

The counselling is picking up momentum by more and more villagers coming up with their problems and getting them solved. Recently, a lady who was deserted by her husband, was made to get Rs. 50/- per month from her husband, who is now living with his second wife.

VANNTHI GUNASEGARAN

INVOLVEMENT OF PUDUVAI ARIVOLI IYYAKKAM IN MANGALAM PROJECT IN THE ERADICATION OF ILLTERACY DURING JUNE, JULY & AUGUST '94.

About the Iyyakkam:

This Arivoli Lyyakkam is a voluntary organisation. The development of the programme solely depends upon the voluntary efforts taken by the volunteers.

Each Arivoli centre is manned by one volunteer which roughly consists of 15 learners.

Fifteen centres were formed of which 10 centres are actively functioning whereas the remaining five will function with utmost efforts. These fifteen centres were divided into three blocks and each block is locked after by one volunteer, namely I. Mr. Sandanakrishnan, II. Mr. Thiagarajan, and III. Mr Sinnayan. They have to look over their block centres. They will mobilise the learners and volunteers.

Literacy Activity:

Two types of learners were covered under these programme viz. illiterates and neo-literates. Seperate syllabus and curriculum were followed for these two categories between the age group of 15-45. They were being taught reading, writing, and numerical skills, Songs, proverbs, Minor calculations were also taught. All the centres will function one hour to two hours a day. Most of the centres are functioning either under the street lights or in the houses of the volunteers. Since Mangalam Project is mainly intended for the development of women. In all the centres mostly women volunteers are purposely selected bearing one or two. Note books, pencils, attendance registers, roll up board were supplied to the learners.

To improve reading habit a mini library was also arranged. Learners were advised to read the stories and one eveningier (Malai malar-daily) is also supplied.

Awarness Programme:

Besides Literacy activity Awarness programme like public meeting by Junior chamber, film shown by Field Publicity Dept., Nutrition demonstration by Nutrition dept. Medical camp in alternative medicines by voluntary agency (SEHAT) and guest lecture by Police Department and Revenue Department(Karnam) were organised.

Periodical Meeting:

Meetings were arragned forthnighly with the incharge of Arivoli centres. A. P. Os and other field level functionaries of Mangalam project.

Problems faced in the centre:

A large gap was found between centres, volunteers in the standard of education, approach to the learners and periodical conduct of the centre. To avoid this gap a 1/2 day training course cum meeting was organised for volunteers. The Centre Project Co-ordinator, Puduvaai Arivoil Iyyakkam, Mr. P. N. Gopalakrishnan, Officials of Adult Education Wing, A. P. O.s have act as resource persons.

Effect of the volunteers meeting/ training:

The effect of the functioning of the centre is noticed

- The habit of going to the centres regularly by volunteers and the learners were followed.
- Rapport between various officials were developed.
- Systematic imparting of education of the learners were followed

Follow up:

As a follow up measure another volunteers meeting is decided to conduct of 30th September 94 to ascertain the functioning of the centres, standard of education, problems of the learners, volunteers etc.,

Beneficiaries of 6-14 age group:

A survey was conducted to identify the non-school going children in age group of 6-14. 3 children were admitted in the primary School, Mangalam. And steps were taken to admit the drop out girls in the Social Welfare Board-Residential School.

(M. Sadagopan) Commune Coordinator (Villianur Commune) Pudual Arivoli Iyyakkam

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 11th to 21st SEPTEMBER

Mr. P.R. Andre Counsellor (ASHI, Pondicherry Branch

Renuka: Renuka was battered and illtreated by her husband, so she left for her mother's house. When she left, her husband got married again and is now living with his second wife. Subsequently, he deserted his first wife and child altogether.

Because of this, she was very much affected financially and also psychologically.

She approached the Family Counselling Centre for help.

Assistance rendered: - The Counsellor met the client's husband and gave individual Counselling. He advised him to realise his mistake. He asked him to take treatment at the De-addiction Centre since he was an Alcoholic.

The Counsellor also gave Family counselling to both the husband and wife.

Krishnaveni: The client Krishnaveni aged 50 years, had been battered and illtreated by both her husband and son. She revealed that she had some property in her name from her grandmother. Her husband and son cheated her by taking away her property and finally drove her away. She is now living alone outside the same house. She is very much depressed and worried.

She approached the Counsellor and requested him to file a suit against them in order to regain her property.

Assistance rendered: The Counsellor met both her husband and son and gave individual counselling to them on different dates. The husband accepted the Counsellor's advice and promised to return the property. On condition that his wife should repay the expenditure incurred by him for cultivation of the landed property and also the expenditure on the daughter's marriage. On enquiry, Counsellor found that the client was keen on getting back her property through litigation. But the Counsellor tried to convince both the husband and his wife to solve their problem without resorting to any legal action. Conselling is going on.

ARUNODAYAM, COUNSELLING-CUM-REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR DRUG ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS RUN BY ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL HEALTH IN INDIA. PONDICHEERY BRANCH - REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 16th JULY TO 15th SEPTEMBER 1994.

V. RAMAPRABOU, COUNSELLOR, ARUNODAYAM, M.G. ROAD, PONDY - 1.

Every Wednesday, 2 counsellors from Arunodayam visit Mangalam village to render counselling service. Twenty corner meetings were held from 20th July to 14th September 94. Housewives and members of the local Madhar Sangam and the general public were the participants. The topics covered in these meetings were as follows:-

- Alcoholism a rapidly spreading disease.
- Drug addiction and its ill effects.
- "Causes for drug addiction it is a disease which can be treated"
- Symptoms of Drug addiction.
- How to identity a drug addict
- Treatment and rehabilitation measures.
- The responsibility of the family members to protect their children and others from taking to either drugs or alcohol.

So far 30 addicts have been identified in Magalam village out of which 15 cases have been treated at Arunodayam by the Psychiatrist. Counselling has been given to all the 30 clients.

On 17th August 1994, Arunodayam arranged a film show at Mangalam village through the Central Field Publicity Department, Government of India. It was a film depicting the ill effects of alcohol and drugs.

The Counsellors of Arunodayam have also planned to show slides regarding the same in their awareness generation meetings and to do follow up regularly at Arunodayam.

Azaquvel: The client is 24 years old, married, having a 1 1/2 year old kid.

The client's father and mother expired long back. When his father was alive he was cheated by his brother when the family property was divided. So after his death as his successor, the client tried to get his father's share from his uncle but he could not succeed. Therefore, he approached the Family Counselling Centre for help.

Assistance rendered: The Counsellor gave individual counselling to the client to develop self-confidence and courage in him. He took him to the advocate and explained the details regarding his case with relevant documents.

Ezhilarasi: She is a 30 year old widow. She lived with her husband only for three months and he eloped with another girl and started living at Cuddalore. He expired 11/2 years ago, after which the widow got her pension.

With this meagre income she is finding it difficult to maintain herself.

So she wanted to get her husband's share of the property. She approached the Counsellor for help.

Assistance rendered: Met the client and gave individual counselling to her. Asked her to bring the property documents for further action.

PONDICHERRY LEGAL AID AND ADVICE BOARD DISTRICT COURT BUILDING,

PONDICHERRY

Legal Aid Camp held at Mangalam Village on 02-08-1994

Sl. No.	Ref. No.	Name and Address	Nature of case	
1.	664/94	Danalakshmi W/O Rajamani Vadamangalam Salai, Mangalam	Regn. of birth One Child Thenme	
2.	665/94	Danavalli W/O Sreenivasan M.A. Koil St. Nadu st.,	Regn. of birth for	
3.	666/94	Kuppammall W/O Kothandapani Pudunagar, Mangalam	Regn. of birth for	
4.	667/94	Kalayani W/o Kalirathinam, Pundunagar, Mangalam.	Regn. of birth	
5.	668/94	Renuka W/O Thandavarayan, late Erikkarai St. Mangalam	Regn. of birth	
5.	669/94	Sundaravalli W/O Periyasamy M.A.K. St., Mangalam		or
•	670/94	Seethalakshmi W/O paramasivam No. 50, Pudunagar, Mangalam.	Regn. of birth for two children.	Mr. S. Subramani an, Advocate,
•	671/94	Rajaveni W/O Krishnan, New Colony, Mangalam & p.o.	Regn. of birth self and two children.	appointed.
	672/94	Sivakami W/O Devaraj, Mangalm road & p.o.	Regn. of birth self	
).	673/94	Chandran, Mangalam	Conjungal rights	Forwarded to the Cell No. III for Conciliation.
.	674/94	Dhanm, W/O Govindaraj, Melakara st. Mangalam	Regn. of birth one	orientation.
	675/94	Jayanthi W/O Rajaram, Eikarai st., Mangalam.	Regn. of birth two	
3.	676/94	Ramakrishnan, Mangalam	Partition dispute	-do-
	677/94	Krishnaveni w/o Swaminathan Kaman koil st. Mangalam	Regn. of birth two	40-
•	678/94	Chinnaponnu W/o Munusamy	Regn. of birth one	Mrs. Shaheeda parveen, Advocate
0	679/94	Navamma W/O Ramachindran	Regn. of birth one	appointed.
	998/94	Sivakami D/O Paramasivam	8-11 OF DITTIE OFF	

MONTHLY REPORT OF MANGALAM PROJECT BY THE PROJECT ORGANISER

1. Free legal aid fallow up camp;

On 5th Oct. afternoon the follow up camp was conducted at Mangalam Office. A team of experts from free legal aid came and examined the old 12 cases. Of which 3 have been already field in the court and for the rest they told that the applicants should come with the required certificates and meet the lawyers at the free legal aid cell at Pondicherry.

2. Celebrations:

On Oct. 12th Ayudhapooja was celebrated at the Mangalam Office. The function was attended by the Dy. Director of Social Welfare, Mrs. Vani Adhithan, Member, Mangalam Project, Arivoli Co-ordinator, Counsellors from the Welfare Board, Association for Social Health in India, Aroundayam, Karanam and 60 women from the village.

An Elocution competition was conducted among the village women and prizes were distributed to the winners by Mr. Yani Adhithan. Incentive gifts were also given to threee Ariyoli Volunteers. Arivoli Volunteers from Visvodhayam performed a street play on the evils of drug addiction, alcoholism and aids. At the end, sundal packets were distributed to all the people who participated in the function.

3. Counselling:

Family counselling on Wednesdays afternoon has become very useful. People from the surrounding areas like Melsathamange lam, Vadamangalam, Sedarapet started coming. It is felt the counselling session should continue in Mangalam Village at least once in a month, even after the project is over. On hearing about the counselling session one couple came from Melsathamangalne with their problems. We heard their version also from the village leaders. The wife wanted a legal separation, whereas the husband wanted to live with her. Then the counsellor decided to go to their village and talk to their relatives and other village leaders. We tried our level best to make her live with her husband. But she was stubborn in her decision. So the counsellor asked them to come out of the joint family and live in another village. This was not agreeable by both. Finally the counsellor decided to put her in the short stay home after getting the consent from her father and her husband.

4. Family Court :

Out of many cases which came up during the counselling session some legal cases were taken up by Mrs. Usha, Advocate.

During the hearing of one of such cases I went to the court with her and witnessed the proceedings of the family court.

5. Arivoli Vounteers Meet:

Second Arivoli Volunteers meet was arranged on 30th September '94 at 2.00 P.M. The commune co-ordinator and 4 Assistant Project Officers participated, in which the volunteers from the Mangalam village and pet have attended. The following topics were discusseed in the meet.

- 1. Superstitous beliefs
- 2. First aid
- 3. General awareness
- 4. Discussion on the Arivoli activities in the village

It was found that such meetings gave a real motivation to the volunteers.

6. Multipurpose training by Arivoli Iyakkam:

The commune co-ordinator informed us that they are going to conduct 3 months training programme for the adolescent girls in tailoring bathi making at the soical education centre, Kuruchikuppam. For the above training he asked us to depute eligible girls from the Mangalam village.

So our Field Workers went around the village and identified the following girls for the training.

- 1. Dhanalakshmi 5th Std.
- 2. Alagammal 2nd
- 3. Krishnaveni 6th Std.
- 4. Savithiri 7th Std.

On 5th October morning at Social Education Centre the training programme was inaugurated by central project co-ordinator. The Project Officer Mr. Dayannandan spoke on the importance of training and things related to it. I gave a talk on the importance of education for women and their role in the society. The trainees will be given Rs. 300/- per month as stipend.

(VANMATHI GUNASEGARAN)

MONTHLY REPORT BY THE PROJECT ORGANISER FOR THE MONTH OF NOVERMBER '94 TRAINERS TRAINING

A team of Advocates, counsellors and social Welfare Organisers were sent for the interaction with LRSA for three days from 5th Nov. to 7th November. They were able to set Mission, vision and objectives for the second phase of the project which helped us to develop team spir commitment towards the project. The participants had a good opportunity to meet the leg facilitators came to LRSA from different parts of Tamil Nadu. They also witnessed a specific street play programme.

TRAINING FOR STREET PLAY

A preliminary screening was done by me on 9th Nov. to identity volunteers from the village for undergoing training in street play. A similar exercise was done among the Arivo volunteer and Anganwadi Workers on 10th November. Finally 13 persons (9 males and 4 females were selected from the village and five from Arivoli Volunteers and five from Anganwadi Worker and sent to Chenglapet for training in street play at LRSA for seven days from 14th Nov. to 20th November. I paid a visit to LRSA during their training period and shared their views Every one was extremely happy about their participation and training.

After their return from the LRSA they formed a troupe of themselves called Mangalar Kalaikuzhu and gave their first performance "Oylattam" on 24th November for Women's Da and Minorities Day celebrations conducted by the Department of Social Welfare.

MID TERM REVIEW

The Research Officer had a discussion with the Chair person about the ways and mean of evaluating the progress of the project. Based on that he formulated questionnaire. With the help of the Social Welfare Organisers who went to LRSA for trainers training, the villager view about the project was assessed through the questionnaire. After completion, the questionnaire were given to the Research Officer for further analysis and report.

VIDEO FILM ON PROJECT MANGALAM

It was decided to shoot the events on Mangalam project a documentary film and steps were initiated towards this line. Mr. Karthikeyan from Shakthi Sikha Films alongwith a 2 member team came to Pondicherry for site inspection and discussion. With the Diector Social Welfare we visited the Mangalam village to see the various activities. They inspected the tailoring unit, temple, school, anganwadi centres and also met some local people. In the same afternoon Mr. Karthikeyan observed the counselling session.

On 24th he attended the Minortities Day and Women's Day celebrations and witnessed the Oylattam performed by Mangalam Kalaikuzhu - Then on 25th all the counsellors from ASHI, ARUNODHAYAM and Social Welfare Advisory Board gathered at Maitreye to have a detailed discussions of the cases, with the Director, Social Welfare and Mr. Karthikeyan and his team.

On Saturday the 26th Nov. I accompanied Mr. Karthikeyan and his team to the Mangalam village where we met the Mahilamboo Madhar Sangam leader and members.

ARIVOLI VOLUNTEERS MEET AND STREET PLAY PROGRAMME

The Chairperson of the project Mrs. Anjani Dayanand, paid a visit to Mangalam Village alongwith the director Social Welfare and Mr. Karthikayan and his team, on 28th November. The Chairperson had a dialogue with each Arivoli Volunteer and announced a contest for the Arivoli Learners after 3 months in reading, writing making words and so on. Prizes will be given to winners of the contest and also to teachers who taught the winners.

The chairperson declared open a library in the Mangalam Project Office. Two Arivoli Volunteers borrowed books for reading.

Then the chairperson had a meeting with all the trained street players in the school campus. They all shared their joy and experience which they received during their stay at LRSA, Chengalpet. The chairperson distributed a set of dhoti, towel and baniyan to men and a saree and blouse piece to women participants and also paid a cash gift of Rs. 70/- to each of the participants.

MONTHLY REPORT BY THE PROJECT ORAGANISER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER '94 VILLAGE

VILLAGE MOTHERS MEETING:

On 7th December Mr. Sayeed Ahamed Hussain, Specail Officer, Mrs. Upagaramary, Counsellor from State Welfare Advisory Board came and conducted a meeting with the local women. 35 mothers participated in the meeting. In the meeting they discussed about starting another Mathar Sangam and its advantages in getting loan for the poor among themselves.

Ultimately a new mathar sangam was formed and office bearers were elected to get the sangam and registered, for getting the benefits of the Government.

At the end of the meeting the mothers have addressed by Arivoli Iyakkam Co-ordinators and asked their continued co-operation and participation in future also.

VIDEO FILM ON PROJECT MANGALAN:

It was decided to shoot the various activities of the Mangalam Project from 9th December to 14th December.

On 9th December a health Camp was organised with the help of the Health Department. The health camp was arranged in a local theatre. 400 people, mainly school children were screened and necessary cases were treated by Doctors.

On 10th December family counselling was done by the counsellors with their clients in their houses in Mangalam and in Sathamangalam.

On Sunday the 11th December State Co-ordination Committee meeting was held in an orchard in the village.

After the meeting the Leadership and Legal Literacy Camp-IV was inaugurated by the Secretary, Social Welfare. 40 women participated. The camp continued till 14th December and was conducted by L.R.S.A. Team.

On 14th December the valedictory function of the camp was graced by Mrs. Jayanthi patnaik, chairman, Mrs. Padmaseth, Member, National Commission for Women. The Chairperson, Mangalam Project lit the Kuthuvilakku and the participants lit the Agalvilakku and shared their views and experiences about the camp. The Chairperson and the member National Commission for Women addressed the gathering and gave away the certificates of participation to the women.

On the same day evening the Mangalam Kalaikuzhu (23 persons) gave their performance in the village grounds. There was a big enthusiastic crowd of villagers to witness the events. The National Commission for Women also witnessed the programme and appreciated.

TRAINERS TRAINING

Basic laws were taught to the five Social Welfare Organisers by a teacher of Law College for a week.

MID TERM REVIEW

State Co-ordination Committee Member Mr. D.K. Sambath came for mid-term evaluation from 9th january to 11th January. On 9th he visited the Mangalam village to meet the people. He went around the village and had talk with many of them informally, both from Mangalam and Pet area.

On 10th January he met the officals involved in the project, members, counsellors are the Chairperson.

On 11th December he again came to the village to see the counselling session and involve himself in the deliberations and also visited a house for counselling, and he also spent sometime in the tailoring unit.

VISIT BY THE MEMBER SECRETARY - NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Mrs. Indira Mishra, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women, visited Pondichers on 19th January to review the progress of the Mangalam Project. She also previewed the documentary film on Mangalam Project. After seeing the film in the morning she visited the Mangalam village in the afternoon.

INAUGURATION OF AGARBATHI UNIT AND INTERACTION WITH THE VILLAGE WOMEN

An Agarbathi Unit was started in collaboration with Pondicherry Corporation for Women Development to meet the felt needs of the local women. It was inaugurated by the Member Secretary. National Commission for Women, by lighting the Kuthuvilakku. It was also attended by Secretary, Social Welfare, Director, Social Welfare, Managing Director, Pondicherry Corporation for Women Development and Deputy Director, Social Welfare.

Then the Member Secretary (NCW) had an Interaction session with the local women trained by LRSA, Changalpet. At the end she came forward to help the women further by giving loans from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. She also witnessed half-an hour programme of street paly and left Pondicherry on the same day.

VANMATHI GUNASEGARAN

FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRE ASSOCAITION FOR SOCIAL HEALTH IN INDIA: PONDICHERRY BRANCH REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 94'

MANGALAM PROJECT

7-12-94

Follow-up of old cases was done. Got cases for Counselling ready for the Videofilm on Mangalam Project.

10-12-94

Three cases were selected for the Videofilm.

21-12-94

A dowry case from Villianoor was registered and counselled at Mangalam Centre. The details are as follows:-

Mrs. Matchagandhi has settled at Thanikuppam in her mother-in-law's house after her marriage. She was ill-treated by her in-laws since she did not fetch a good dowry. She was often sent to her mother's house to bring in more money and jewels. As her parents could not meet the demand, she and her 1 1/2 year old child were often starved for many days. On one occasion she attempted suicide but was saved by the neighbours. Then her parents took her to their house and did not send her back.

Assistance rendered :-

Individual Counselling was given to assist her to get Phychological support. Egostrenghtening advice was also given to boost her weak-ego. Her husband was requested to come to the Centre but he did not do so. After great efforts the Counsellor me the husband at his house at Thanikappam. After a great deal of counselling he accepted the fact that he and his mother had illtreated his wife and that he was now willing to live with her. Individual and marital counselling was given to both the couple and they were made to realise their role in the family. They agreed to live together if they were able to set up a separate house. As their mother-in-law was staying with her daughter counsellor could not meet her. It was however decided to set up a separate house for the couple during the auscipious month of Thai. (i.e. after January 14th). Regular follow-up is being done.

23-12-94 Vehicle did not turn up.

Name of the client :-

Smt. Virudammal

Age

33

Edu.

4th std.

Occupation

Nil

Nature of the family:

Joint

Religion

Hindu

NATURE OF THE PROBLEM: The client was given in marriage by her parents to a person who was mentally retarded. To maintain the family prestige she continued to live with him.

Her father-in-law started making advances to her and on certain occasions tried to

misbehave. As she could not tolerate this she left for her mother's house. Her father-in-ia tried to bring her back into his family. But her parents refused to send her with him.

Her father-in-law arranged a second marriage for his son. But his son left the house are his whereabouts are not known. At present he lives with his second daughter-in-law and has a children by her.

ASSISTANCE RENDERED: The client was highly depressed and worried about the future. He parents are also not financially sound to sustain her. Ego-strenghtening advice was gien ther and steps are being taken, through the Free Legal Aid Cell to get her maintenance.

The Counsellor sent a letter to the client's father-in-law asking him to come to the Office for an amicable settlement and his reply is enclosed herewith. He has explained that his son wherebouts are not known and he could come only on his son's return. Since there was inordinate delay in settling the matter the client was asked to get the property particulars of the father-in-law from the Registrar's office.

The client informed that the Registrar's office refused to comply with the request. Late she enquired at the Karnam office and discovered that the father-in-law had landed propert of about 6 1/2 acres. The value of this was estimated to be about 10 lakhs apart form the hous he had constructed about 2 years ago estimated about 2 lakhs.

A letter has been sent to the Sub-registrar's office through the Directorate of Social Welfare, Pondicherry to which a reply is yet to be received.

The case was discussed by the Legal Expert Sh. E. Sampath with the counsellor. He suggested that the lawyer Mr. Krishnakanth may be requested to take up the case through the Free Legal Aid Cell. As suggested by him this case is brought to the kind attention of Chairperson for suggesting appropriate action.

ARUNODAYAM,

Run By Association for Social Health in India, 439, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Pondicherry-1

REPORT FOR THE VISIT ON * 11-01-95 at 2-30 P.M. AT MANGALAM VILLAGE, VILLIANUR

On 11th January '95 the Counsellor made a visit to Mangalam village. He met about 15 Alcoholic addicts. The addicts were given Individual Counselling, and they were also asked to continue treatment at our Counselling cum Rehabilitation Centre (Arunodayam). They were also informed about the ruining effects of alcohol, tobacco, toddy and other country drugs. they were also made aware of the ill-effects of the same. The family members of the addicts were also rendered counselling. They were explained about the role of the family members in preventing alcohol and Drug addiction.

In addition to that the Counsellor organised 2 corner meetings and about 20 new persons assembled. There the Counsellor gave an elaborate picture of "How Drug addiction digs the grave" and about the ill-effects and preventive aspects of alcoholism and Drug addiction. They were also and told about the treatment Centres in Pondicherry for the alcoholics and drug addicts. The Counsellor also identified 2 alcoholics. They were rendered counselling and directed to the de-addiction Centre. Finally the meeting came to an end with the distribution of hand bills relating to ARUNODAYAM and its activities.

By V. RAMA PRABOU

Counsellor



